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Killed On Felix

John D. Middleton, a prominent sheep man of the south part of this county, was shot down at two o'clock yesterday afternoon, by John Higgs, who lives in this city and who has a dry land claim about six miles from the Middleton ranch.

Mr. Middleton owns what is known as the Cellioette place on the Felix, having bought it about two years ago from the Frenchman. He has about 1,500 head of sheep and has the oldest son of Higgs, and one of the Cellioette boys helping him at this time, as it is lamb-time. A short time ago, the younger Higgs also was in the employe of Middleton, and he was discharged and came back to his home in this city. Higgs and the younger son and two daughters live in a tent in this city, near the place of Ed Carmichael.

Late Sunday evening he told Carmichael that he and the younger son were going back to the ranch of Middleton, and he expected trouble with Middleton over wages. They started out on foot, and walked to the ranch, a distance of twenty-five miles, which is within two miles of the Felix. Here they stayed at the dry claim, and yesterday morning Higgs and the boy went to the sheep camp. Middleton was not there, and they came back to the claim and ate dinner. The father then returned to the sheep camp, and the boy went to his mother, who was with one of the herds a short distance from where the camping outfit was.

The father then saw Middleton go up to the camp on horseback and went over to where he was. There was about one hundred and fifty yards from where the sheep were and there was no one at the camp at this time. Immediately the argument grew warm and the boys were so far from them, they could hear nothing that was said. Middleton started to ride off, as he was on his horse, and he was shot in the back by Higgs with a 30-30, supposed to be a soft nose shot, as it developed later that the entire back bone was broken, many small pieces of bone could be felt working around. He fell off his horse and died at once. They took the horse that Middleton was on and while he told his father that he was coming to this city to give himself up, he has not been heard of since, and some of the workmen saw him when he

rode over the hill, turn the horse loose and start in a different direction.

The incident occurred fifteen miles west of Hagerman in Judge Bailey's district, but the Judge being crippled and quite feeble, R. D. Bell of this city was called up by telephone and asked to take the case. It was then about nine thirty o'clock last night, and the Judge gathered up Buck Ballard, Deputy Sheriff C. R. Young, Dr. C. M. Mayes, and struck out for the place. They missed the road, got lost, and did not reach their destination until two thirty this morning.

When they reached the place the old man who drives the chuck wagon had gotten the body, and taken it to the dead man's home, which is about two miles from the Felix. There were enough men at the place at the time to hold an inquest and it was held at daylight this morning. Only two witnesses were examined as the little French boy could not be found at the time, these being the Higgs boys and Dr. C. M. Mayes. The coroner's jury returned a verdict according to the statements as given above.

One of the strange coincidents of the killing was the fact that it happened in less than two miles of the place where John Turk was shot down about six years ago, over an altercation about sheep.

Mr. Middleton was a man about forty years of age, and leaves a wife and four small children, the oldest being but nine years of age. He was a Texas cow man, having come to the valley about three or four years ago. Prior to

his living in Texas, he was a buyer and shipper of fat cattle from Oklahoma. Mr. Higgs is also a man of about forty two or three, and has four children, two boys ranging in age of about sixteen and fourteen and two girls who are younger. They live in this city, having come here two years ago from Tennessee. The wife and mother died about three years ago in Tennessee, and a short time thereafter, they came to the valley. It was stated by one of the sons at the inquest, that the father had killed a man in Tennessee about ten years ago.

The body of Mr. Middleton will be taken to Hagerman this afternoon and buried there. The officers have notified all outlying districts and a careful search is being made for the capture of Higgs. It was stated by those who attended the coroner's inquest that the deed seemed to be one of cold blood, as the evidence of the son of Mr. Higgs who was the only eye witness showed that Middleton started to ride a way, and the evidence of Dr. Mayes, which could also be seen by all present, that Middleton was shot in the back.

Roswell Register Tribune.

Boundary work To Begin

Washington, March 27.—General Francis M. Cockrell, formerly senator from Missouri, has received notice from Gov. Colquitt of Texas that the Texas member of the joint boundary commission to serve

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with Mr. Cockrell in re-establishing the boundary line between Texas and New Mexico will be Sam R. Scott of Waco. Immediately upon receipt of this notification Mr. Cockrell conferred

with the officials at the general land office and it was determined that the work would be started next month. The commissioners, Cockrell and Scott, will meet at Monahans, the nearest station on the Texas and Pacific railroad on the southeast corner of New Mexico, where the work will begin. The surveyors, linemen and road men and others who will be sent by the general land office to do the work will meet with the commissioners there.

The commission is charged with re-marking the boundary lines, replacing monuments which have been destroyed, but not marking out a new boundary line. They will work northward from the southeast corner first, this line being 311 miles long. The south line is 210 miles long. Mr. Cockrell said that he expects to travel along with the surveyors and camp out with them all summer. He is the representative of New Mexico appointed by the president. Mr. Cockrell who gained military title of general as a commander of Confederate troops in the civil war,

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